CITY OF WHEATON

Municipal Information & Services

1964

City Hall

300 West Wesley Street

Office Hours:

Mon. - Tues. - Thurs. - Fri.....8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Wed. and Sat.....8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

(Closed Sundays & Holidays)

HISTORY * ORGANIZATION

REGULATIONS * WATER SEWER SERVICE

DEPARTMENTS * FINANCES

Dear Citizen:

While this pamphlet is designed primarily to assist newcomers in becoming acquainted with our community, any citizen will find it helpful in becoming more familiar with the operations and services of our City government.

We extend a welcome to newcomers and hope that you quickly feel at home in Wheaton and soon become acquainted with many of our wonderful people.

All members of the City Council and City employees are ready to assist you at any time.

Sincerely,

Karl F. Heimke, Mayor
Jay C. Bennett, Councilman
W. M. Conley Councilman
Marget D. Hamilton, Councilman
John R. Waters, Councilman

BRIEF HISTORY OF WHEATON

In 1837, the first settlement of the Wheaton area was initiated by Erastus Gary, and Warren and Jesse Wheaton.

In 1847, the first school was built and also the railroad, now the Chicago & Northwestern, provided with a right-of-way through the land of the Wheaton brothers and Erastus Gary. By 1850, the first businesses began to be established as settlement increased.

In 1853, the Illinoi s Institute was established, which became Wheaton College in 1862.

As the result of an election in 1867, Wheaton became the County seat. By 1890, when the population reached 1,600, Wheaton was incorporated as a City.

Growth continued from that time and increased during the 1920's. During the 30's and the early war years, little home building occurred, and growth almost ceased.

After World War II, population boomed, reaching 11,638 in 1950, increasing to 24,312 in the 1960 census. A special census in May of 1963 brought the count in 26,263. Land area of Wheaton today is approximately 5.8 square miles.

CITY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL MEETS: First and Third Monday, 8:00 P.M., City Hall (the public is welcome).

As a result of a referendum held in November, 1961, the City of Wheaton operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The citizens elect a Mayor and four Councilmen, each for four-year terms. Two councilmen are elected every two years to allow staggered terms. Council members serve on a part-time basis, with the Mayor receiving $600 annually and Councilmen receiving $400 annually.

The City Council exercises all policymaking and legislative powers of the City, including the passage of ordinances, resolutions, approval of budget, enactment of appropriation and tax levy ordinances. Council policies are carried out be an appointed City Manager, who is administrative head of all City departments. The Manager is appointed by the Council for an indefinite term and may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Council at any time.

The City Manager supervises and co-ordinates the work of all municipal departments, prepares the annual budget, approves City purchases, and makes reports and recommendations to the Council as required. He attends meetings of the Council, but has no vote.

SERVICE AND COMPLAINTS

If you have a question, request for service, or complaint about City service, call City Hall and ask for the appropriate department. If questions are not properly answered by that department or requests or complaints not satisfactorily handled, the citizen should contact the City Manager. The Manager is glad at all times to assist citizens in dealings with the City.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Vehicle Licenses: Persons owning vehicles registered with an address in the City of Wheaton are required to obtain a City Vehicle License Sticker for each vehicle owned. The price of a passenger car sticker is $10.00 per year, or $5.00 for a half-year after July 1. The deadline for obtaining Vehicle Stickers each year is February 15. A penalty of $1.00 per month is added for stickers obtained after that date. Licenses may be obtained at City Hall or by mail.

Revenue obtained from vehicle licenses is kept in a separate fund and used for maintenance, repair and improvement of City streets and for purchase and maintenance of City Streets Department equipment and facilities.

Dog Licenses: Dog licenses may be obtained at City Hall and must be renewed the first of each year. Fees are $3.00 for males and spayed females, and $5.00 for unspayed females. Dogs must also be innoculated for rabies annually. Dogs are not permitted to run at large in the City and should be confined to the owner's premises.

Building and Zoning Requirements: The City has Building and and Zoning Codes regulating the use of land and the construction or alteration of buildings. Permits are required for building or alterations. Permits are issued and inspections conducted by the Building Commissioner and staff. His office is located in City Hall.

Refuse Collection: Refuse collection in the City of Wheaton is handled by three licensed private collectors. Arrangements for collection are made individually with the private collectors. For a fee of $2.00 per month, private scavengers pick up garbage and non-combustible trash on a weekly basis.

Burning of Trash: Papers and other combustible trash is to be burned only in a covered container. A permit must be obtained for all open fires. The Fire Department recommends that any fire, covered or open, be kept a distance of at least 10 feet from any fence, building, or combustible material.

WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

Water & Sewer Charges: Water customers' meters are read and billed quarterly. A charge for sewer service is also included on the water bill, and is based on water consumed. Residential rates are as follows:

	Gross	Net
Water		
Per 100 cu. ft.	$.33	$.27
Sewer		
First 600 cu. ft	$.72	$.60
Ea. addt'l 100 cu. ft.	.11	.09

Net amount of the bill is payable if paid before the end of the discount period, usually the 15th of the billing month. After the end of the discount period, the gross amount is charged.

Water Service: City of Wheaton water is obtained from five underground wells with a more than sufficient capacity to serve the City's current needs. Residents of the City of Wheaton average in excess of 2,100,000 gallons consumed daily, with peak demand during the hot, dry summer spells sometimes running as high as 4,500,000 gallons There are two elevated water storage tanks with a total capacity of 1,700,000 gallons. Water is chlorinated according to State Health and flouride is also added. City water is also relatively "hard" and some form of home softening is usually desirable.

Sewer Service: Sewer service fees collected are for the maintenance, repair, and operation of the sanitary sewer system serving properties throughout the City. Individual house laterals leading from the main to the property are the responsibility of property owners.

Certain large sewer trunk mains and the treatment facilities are maintained and operated by the Wheaton Sanitary District, which is governed by a separate Board of Trustees with its own taxing power. The Sanitary District serves a somewhat larger area than the corporate limits of the City.

OTHER CITY SERVICES

Police Department: Police protection in the City of Wheaton is furnished by a department consisting of a Chief, one lieutenant, one detective, three sergeants, and twenty-one patrolmen. These personnel are all appointed by a Board of Fire and Police Commissioners after examination. Candidates for policemen must be twenty-one to thirty-five years of age and in good physical condition.

The police force is supplemented by meter maids who enforce parking meter regulations, four school crossing guards, and a reserve force. The The reserve force is employed primarily on traffic detail for heavy periods each week and to assist in the handling of functions which draw crowds, such as parades and sporting events.

Fire Department: Fire protection service in the City of Wheaton is provided by an excellent volunteer force of 34 men. These men are well-trained and receive reimbursement at the tate of $6.00 per call when responding to any fire call. There are two fire stations, one located at the corner of Cross and Willow Avenues and the other, newly completed in 1962, at 315 West Front Street. The department has all the latest in fire-fighting apparatus.

The Fire Department is supported by a special fire protection tax levy approved by the voters in 1955.

Street Department: The Department of Streets and Sewers is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of the City's almost 80 miles of streets, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parking lots, and related functions. This department might be referred to as the "catch-all" department of the City, as its activities also include such items as snow removal, street sweeping, leaf removal, maintenance of traffic signs, weed cutting, and Adams Park.

The Forestry Division of the Street Department is responsible for trimming trees and removal of dead or diseased trees on City parkways.

Street Lighting: Residential street lighting in the City is provided primarily through a contract with the Public Service Company which owns and maintains the facilities, for which the City is charged annual service fees. Special facilities such as lighting in the downtown area are maintained and owned by the City.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library is maintained by the tax funds of the City. Its affairs are administered by a Library Board appointed by the City Council.

The present building, located at the corner of Wesley Street and North Main Street, was built in 1890 and has served as a library since the early 1920's. This facility will soon be replaced by a new modern library. to be located at the corner of Cross and Seminary Streets, as the result of the approval of a referendum by the citizens of Wheaton in 1963. Total cost of the structure, including land and building, will be approximately $610,000.

FINANCES

If you are a property owner, your tax dollar goes to the support of nine local taxing bodies. The distribution of each dollar is as follows (based on 1963 tax payments):

Unit of Government	* Rate	Percent
City of Wheaton	$ .629	13.6%
H. S. District #95	1.066	23.3
Grade School District #36	2.149	47.1
DuPage County	.189	4.2
Milton Township	.249	5.5
Wheaton Park District	.052	1.1
Wheaton Sanitary District	.192	4.2
Mosquito Abatement District	.020	.5
Forest Preserve District	.021	.5
	$4.567	100.0%

Less than one-third of the City's operating income is derived from the property tax. Other major sources of revenue include the ½% sales tax, State Motor Fuel Tax allocation, City Vehicle Tax, water usage charges, sewer service fees, parking meter fees, permits, and licenses.

* (Per $100 assessed valuation.)

DIRECTORY

City Council

Office	Name	Term Expires
Mayor	Karl F. Heimke	4 - 17 - 67
Councilman	Jay C. Bennett	4 - 19 - 65
Councilman	Wallace M. Conley	4 - 17 - 67
Councilman	(Mrs.) Marget D. Hamilton	4 - 19 - 65
Councilman	John R. Waters	4 - 17 - 67

Administrative Officials

Name	Position
C. Richard Foote	City Manager
C. O. Freedlund	City Clerk and Collector
Hartman E. Stime	City Attorney
Helen F. Bolger	City Treasurer
George L. Dunkirk	City Engineer
B. H. White	Chief of Police
Owen Reynolds	Fire Marshal
Charles M. Stika	Building Commissioner
L. C. Jones	Superintendent of Streets and Sewers
Joseph A. Walsh	Superintendent of Water
Margery H. Lincoln	Librarian

City Telephones

Police ..... MO 8-2131

Fire ..... MO 8-2121

All other City Services,

Call City Hall ..... MO 8-3130

Wheaton Public Library ..... MO 8-1374